Reflecting on the Incarnation (Part 2) December 23, 2018

Introduction: Over the course of two weeks, we have reflected on the glorious incarnation. During this time, we have identified six key elements to understanding the incarnation:

- 1. Prophecy
- 2. Deity
- 3. Kenosis
- 4. Virgin Birth
- 5. Humanity
- 6. Hypostatic Union

Each of these points describes a unique important element in the incarnation of Jesus, and all of them contribute to the greater purpose of the incarnation, that *God became man so that man could come to God*.

General Questions

1. What part of these two messages stood out as important to you? Why?

2. What about your life this week needs to be different as you try to live out the truth you heard these two weeks?

Specific Questions

3. How do the prophecies about Jesus further authenticate the Christian claim that Jesus is the Son of God? What do they reveal about the sovereignty of God?

4. What were some of the ways that Jesus showed Himself to be the Son of God?

5. If Jesus is God (and He is!), what does this mean for a person living in 2018?

6. In Philippians 2, Paul describes the *kenosis* (Jesus giving up the independent use of his divine attributes). Read Philippians 2:5-10. What sticks out to you about the kenosis?

7. Matthew carefully constructs his account of Jesus' birth to leave no doubt about the supernatural events that occurred. In particular, he makes clear that Mary was pregnant, not from Joseph, but from the Holy Spirit. Take a moment to reflect on the emotions and mindset of the characters in this story.

Mary—

Joseph—

Mary's family—

Joseph's family—

8. As a man, Jesus experienced all the emotions and experiences associated with humanity: anger, sorrow, hunger, exhaustion, joy, temptation, suffering...etc. What effect does this have on His ability to be our Savior? (See Hebrews 4:14-16 for one aspect.)